



For Immediate Release

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WorkFirst Grant Will Help Snohomish County Parents with Language Barriers Find Work

EVERETT – WorkFirst partners in Snohomish County received a \$2,300 grant to provide employment services to parents on welfare who have limited English skills or other barriers. The money will pay for a part-time staff person who will assist parents in the WorkFirst program and help them find jobs.

Julie Kuliknovsky, who works for TRAC Associates in Everett, will spend one day a week at WorkSource Everett, where she will assist an estimated 20 parents over the next six months with expanding their job search skills. Kuliknovsky moved to the United States from the former Soviet republic of Ukraine and is fluent in Russian and English.

“My ultimate goal is to help parents learn how to use the community employment resources that are available at WorkSource Everett,” Kuliknovsky said. “I hope to help them build their skills, which will lead to employment and self-sufficiency.”

Snohomish County is one of several communities across the state to receive seed-money grants to support innovative projects that move families from welfare to self-sufficiency and strengthen partnerships among local service providers.

More than \$33,000 has been awarded to WorkFirst Local Planning Areas (LPAs), local partnerships of government agencies, nonprofit community organizations and other groups that provide services for WorkFirst participants. Communities were given the opportunity to apply for small grants for special projects not supported in WorkFirst’s regular budget.

“Despite budget cuts and a tough job market, WorkFirst continues to be successful because of local collaboration,” said Kelly Lindseth, of the state Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. “Communities are demonstrating that with a little seed money and a lot of creativity and determination, they can make a difference.”

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